

RSU Camp Lejeune

Capt. Tara J. Roebuck

Reserve Support Unit, Camp Lejeune

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — The Reserve Support Unit, Camp Lejeune plays a vital role in the training of reservists from all service components, but in particular, reserve units of Marine Forces Reserve. Throughout the years, the size and name has evolved, but the mission of the RSU has remained constant: “Conduct planning for and provide administrative and logistic support to reserve units and individual ready reservists from all reserve components to accomplish monthly, annual, and other reserve training performed aboard MCB, Camp Lejeune.”

Because of its location at Camp Lejeune, the RSU is able to coordinate and support various types of training for Reserve units. Ranges at Camp Lejeune can support live-fire training up to company level. A tank and tracked vehicle fire and maneuver range as well as ranges for rifles; pistols; machine guns; artillery; tube-launched, optically-tracked, wire-guided missile systems; demolition; and close air support are available. In addition, Camp Lejeune also provides training areas and facilities for land navigation, Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain, Nuclear, Biological and Chemical qualification, swim qualification, boat operations, rappelling, parachute operations, and miles of beach for amphibious training operations.

During the past several years, the RSU has played a pivotal role as planner and coordinator for reserve units from all service components. The RSU has assisted thousands of reservists in conducting their training at Camp Lejeune. The Marines of the RSU work daily to accomplish their mission to ensure that the training and support at

Camp Lejeune is the best available. This year alone, the RSU has hosted annual training exercises for: 3rd Battalion 24th Marines, several companies from 4th Combat Engineer Bn., D Company, 8th Tank Battalion, Headquarters and Support Co. (TOWS), 8th Tank Bn., and detachments from Marine Wing Support Squadron-471, along with supporting drill weekends of numerous units.

In addition to its role of supporting Reserve units, the RSU also plays an important role as the nucleus of the Mobilization Support Battalion at Camp Lejeune. Following Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the RSU received the following tasking: “Upon mobilization, become the command nucleus for the Mobilization Support Battalion. Responsibilities of the MSB include: processing, training, and staging of the mobilized individuals for whom Camp Lejeune is the Station of Initial Assignment”. Since then, the RSU has supported various operations such as Operation Sea Signal, Operation Joint Endeavor, and Operation Joint Guard.

In 1999, during Operation Allied Force, RSU Camp Lejeune was designated the processing center/point of departure for all Marines en route to Marine Forces Europe in support of contingency operations. Both active and reserve component Marines were administratively processed trained and equipped by the RSU and MCB agencies. RSU personnel coordinated, supported, and conducted Anti-Terrorism-Force Protection Training, weapons familiarization/qualification and made the deploying Marines administratively, medically and logistically prepared prior to their departure to MFE and beyond.

To maintain its mobilization readiness, the RSU Marines regularly participate in mobilization exercises to practice, enhance and improve its mobilization capabilities. From 4-30 June, the RSU participated in PIM-MOBEX 00. During PIM-MOBEX 00, 15 individual ready reservists and 26 retired Marines voluntarily returned to active duty for training. The culmination of this exercise took place on 10-11 June, where the RSU/MSB processed 115 IRR Marines and 11 Selected Reserve Program 9 Sailors to simulate a partial mobilization that could take place during a “real-world” contingency.

It is evident that the mission of the Reserve Support Unit is two-fold and remains more relevant today than ever. The dedication and hard work of the RSU Marines truly makes the difference to ensure that individual reservists and reserve units from MarForRes and all service components have the opportunity to train at the East Coast’s premier training area and are ready for mobilization if called.



Reservists land safely in Landing Zone Falcon at Camp Lejeune.